

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10

ACDA-05 NIC-01 /072 W

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P R 101740Z FEB 75

FM USMISSION USBERLIN

TO AMEMBASSY BONN PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 0467

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

AMEXBASSY BERLIN UNN

C O N F I D E N T I A L USBERLIN 0255

E.O.11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, WB, UR

SUBJECT: SOVIETS PROTEST DISCLOSURE OF STATEMENT ON  
EC VOCATIONAL CENTER

REF: A) USBERLIN 232; B) USBERLIN 154 C) BONN 2059

1. CITING ALLIED SOURCES, LOCAL PRESS FEBRUARY 8-10  
HAS REPORTED THAT STATEMENT ON EC VOCATIONAL CENTER WAS  
DELIVERED BY SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR RODIN TO CHAIR-  
MAN (US) POLAD FEBRUARY 6 (REF A). BERLINER MORGENPOST  
NOTED THAT STATEMENT WAS DELIVERED ORALLY BY SOVIET  
EMBASSY "BELOW MINISTER LEVEL," AND THAT ARGUMENTS  
ADDUCED BY SOVIETS HAD BEEN IMMEDIATELY REFUTED BY ALLIED  
REPRESENTATIVES. ALLIED SPOKESMAN WAS QUOTED AS SAYING  
THAT SOVIET STATEMENT WOULD NOT ALTER DECISION TO LOCATE  
VOCATIONAL CENTER IN BERLIN, BUT THAT IT WOULD  
HAVE TO BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY AS RENEWED EFFORT BY MOSCOW  
TO MAKE USE OF QA TO INTERVENE CONSTANTLY IN INTERNAL  
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WEST BERLIN MATTERS. IN BERLIN-DATELINED ARTICLE,

FEBRUARY 10 DIE WELT SPECIFIED THAT STATEMENT HAD BEEN MADE BY SOVIET EMBASSY COUNSELLOR RODIN TO REPRESENTATIVES OF US MISSION (CHARACTERIZED BY DIE WELT AS "ONE OF THE WEAKEST FORMS OF DIPLOMATIC INTERVENTION"), AND THAT RODIN HAD BASED SOVIET OBJECTIONS TO ESTABLISHMENT OF CENTER ON PROVISION OF QA PROSCRIBING UNILATERAL CHANGE IN AREA. DIE WELT ALSO REPORTED THAT US MISSION HAD ACCEPTED AS AIDE MEMOIRE WRITTEN COPY OF SOVIET ORAL STATEMENT, AND QUOTED "INFORMED ALLIED OBSERVERS" AS CHARACTERIZING STATEMENT AS KIND OF "LEGAL RESERVATION" OF POSITION.

2. SOVIET EMBASSY PROTOCOL OFFICER ROMANOVSKIY CALLED ON MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER FEBRUARY 10 TO REPORT THAT SOVIET EMBASSY WAS "VERY DISPLEASED" THAT STATEMENT DELIVERED FEBRUARY 6 HAD FOUND ITS WAY INTO PRESS, AND IN SUCH DETAIL. ROMANOVSKIY SAID THAT SOVIET EMBASSY HAD ALWAYS PROCEEDED ON ASSUMPTION THAT COMMUNICATIONS WITH ALLIED MISSIONS WERE CONFIDENTIAL IN NATURE, AND HE ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW WE COULD CONTINUE TO DO BUSINESS IN THE FUTURE. MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER RESPONDED THAT MUCH OF SUBSTANCE OF SOVIET PROTEST HAD ALREADY BEEN MADE PUBLIC A WEEK OR SO AGO (REF B), AND POINTED OUT THAT FRANKFURTER RUNDSCHAU HAD REPORTED PRIOR TO DELIVERY OF STATEMENT ON FEBRUARY 6, AND PRESUMABLY NOT ON BASIS OF ALLIED SOURCES, THAT SOVIETS WOULD LODGE OFFICIAL PROTEST ON VOCATIONAL CENTER THAT WOULD MAKE USE OF "UNILATERAL CHANGE" ARGUMENT (REF C). MISSION PROTOCOL OFFICER EXPRESSED AGREEMENT, HOWEVER, WITH GENERAL PRINCIPLE THAT COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN SOVIET EMBASSY AND ALLIED MISSIONS SHOULD REMAIN ON CONFIDENTIAL BASIS.

3. COMMENT: BITS AND PIECES ON SOVIET DISLIKE OF EC OFFICE HAVE BEEN COMING OUT FOR SOME TIME AND ALLIED SPOKESMEN IN BERLIN (WE ARE NOT SURE WHOM) MAY HAVE GONE BEYOND PRESS GUIDANCE PROVIDED REF C. IN ANY EVENT, THIS EPISODE REINFORCES OUR DOUBTS AS TO GENERAL ADVISABILITY OF GIVING OUT ANY MORE INFORMATION THAN IS ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL ABOUT SOVIET PROTESTS AT GESTATION STAGE, WHEN WE ARE NOT YET CERTAIN HOW FAR MOSCOW INTENDS CONFIDENTIAL

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TO PURSUE ANY PARTICULAR MATTER. FACT THAT SOVIETS OFFICIALLY PROTESTED DISCLOSURE OF STATEMENT ON EC VOCATIONAL CENTER, WHICH THEY REFRAINED FROM DOING WHEN THEIR FIRST STATEMENT ON ENVIRONMENTAL AGENCY BECAME PUBLICLY KNOWN, SUGGEST THAT SOVIET INTENTION MAY HAVE BEEN, BY CONTRAST, TO PLAY PRESENT ISSUE IN LO-KEY FASHION AND PERHAPS TO LET MATTER REST AFTER RECEIPT OF ALLIED RESPONSE. MISSIONS'S OWN INCLINATION FOR FUTURE

WOULD BE TO SAY NO MORE THAN THAT WE REGARD DISCUSSIONS  
WITH SOVIETS ON MATTERS OF THIS SORT AS CONFIDENTIAL.  
SUCH A LINE, WHICH GOES A BIT BEYOND "NEITHER CONFIRM  
NOR DENY," HAS ADVANTAGE OF NOT PUSHING SOVIETS QUITE SO  
MUCH INTO CORNER IN EVENT THEY ARE NOT OTHERWISE  
INCLINED TO ESCALATE LEVEL OF EXCHANGE. EXPLICIT  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT THERE HAS BEEN PROTEST  
INEVITABLY FOCUSES ATTENTION ALL THE MORE ON EVENTUAL  
ALLIED RESPONSE, AND MAY LEAD SOVIETS TO FEEL THEY HAVE  
TO HAVE LAST WORD, OR AT LEAST PROTRACT EXCHANGES LONGER  
THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE CASE. GEORGE

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## Message Attributes

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